

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AEC-11

ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAM-01

NSCE-00 DRC-01 /217 W

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R 242127Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3549

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1596

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CA

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SUBJECT: TEXT BY FOREIGN MINISTER SHARP REGARDING INDIAN

NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: IAEA VIENNA 4654

FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MITCHELL SHARP OF MAY 22, 1974 REGARDING  
INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.

BEGIN QUOTE

AS I MENTIONED IN MY STATEMENT ON MAY 18, THE  
GOVERNMENT WAS VERY DISTURBED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT  
INDIA HAD EXPLODED A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND TODAY CABINET  
HAS BEEN GIVING SERIOUS STUDY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS  
UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT.

OUR CONCERN IS RELATED TO TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS. FIRST,  
WE ARE CONCERNED AS TO THE EFFECT THAT INDIA'S ACTION,  
WHATEVER ITS MOTIVATION, WILL HAVE ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS,  
TO WHICH CANADA HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTY, TO LIMIT AND CONTROL  
THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TECHNOLOGY FOR WHICH  
THERE CAN BE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN PEACEFUL AND POTENTIAL  
MILITARY APPLICATION. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THEREFORE,  
INDIA NOW HAS DEVELOPED THE CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING A NUCLEAR  
WEAPON. MANY YEARS AGO CANADA COULD HAVE DEVELOPED A SIMILAR  
CAPABILITY BUT WE CHOSE NOT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF OUR VIEW THAT  
THE DUBIOUS ADVANTAGES OF HAVING OUR OWN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WERE  
FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE DANGERS TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY.  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TECHNOLOGY BY INDIA IS BOUND TO HAVE  
SERIOUS AND WIDESPREAD REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT ASIA AND  
THE WORLD.

SECONDLY, WE ARE VERY DISTRESSED AND CONCERNED THAT  
THIS LATEST MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR CLUB SHOULD BE A COUNTRY  
WITH WHICH SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE CARRIED ON  
OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES EXTENSIVE COOPERATION IN THE  
NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD. THIS LONG-STANDING COOPERATION WITH  
INDIA IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD HAS INVOLVED THE GIFT,  
UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN, OF A NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR; THE  
PROVISION OF CREDIT, EXPRTISE, MATERIALS AND FUEL FOR TWO  
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ELECTRIC GENERATING REACTORS, AND A VARIETY OF TECHNIAL  
EXCHANGES AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL, ETC. ALL OF THIS  
ASSISTANCE WAS INTENDED TO HELP INDIA IN MEETING THE CRITICAL  
ENERGY NEEDS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND WAS PROVIDED TO, AND  
ACCEPTED BY, INDIA ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD BE USED FOR  
PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR IN INTERNATIONAL  
DISCUSSIONS AND IN BILATERALEXCHANGES WITH INDIA THAT THE  
CREATION OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR SO-CALLED PEACEFUL

PURPOSES COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A PEACEFUL PURPOSE WITHIN THE MAINING OF OUR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

CANADA CONTINUES TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS GENERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND REMAINS ANXIOUS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE. IT FULLY RESPECTS INDIA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE IN ALL MATTERS. IT CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE EXPECTED TO ASSIST AND SUBSIDIZE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WHICH, IN A KEY RESPECT, UNDERMINES THE POSITION WHICH CANADA HAS FOR A LONG TIME BEEN FIRMLY CONVINCED IS BEST FOR WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY.

IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS INTERNATIONALLY AND FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS RESULTING FROM INDIA'S EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE, CANADA INTENDS TO REASSESS ITS NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD WARNED THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI, WOULD BE DONE IF INDIA DEVELOPED SUCH A DEVICE. WE ARE SEEKING INFORMATION FROM INDIA ON THE SOURCE OF THE PLUTONIUM USED IN THE EXPLOSION AND ON THE SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH THEY EXPECT THIS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TECHNIQUE WILL BENEFIT INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMENSURATE WITH THE COSTS INVOLVED. ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LTD. HAS RECALLED FOR DISCUSSIONS MR. MORROW, ITS RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BOMBAY. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED SHIPMENTS TO INDIA OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL AND HAS INSTRUCTED AECL, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THE SITUATION, TO SUSPEND ITS COOPERATION WITH INDIA REGARDING NUCLEAR REACTOR PROJECTS AND THE MORE GENERAL TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH IT HAS WITH THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

CANADA WILL PROPOSE EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA  
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ON FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, A DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIA'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES. CANADA IS CONSCIOUS OF THE VERY LARGE COSTS INVOLVED IN THE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND WE HAVE AN APPRECIATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, MATERIAL, MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL, WHICH MUST BE DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. CANADA DOES NOT INTEND TO SHARE THE BURDEN OF RELIEVING SUCH COSTS. AS A RESULT, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO AGREE TO ANY ROLLOVER OF INDIA'S COMMERCIAL DEBT TO CANADA, WHICH IS LARGELY RELATED TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PLAN TO INTERRUPT ITS CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL AID TO THE SUB-CONTINENT ALTHOUGH

IT WILL BE REVIEWING OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE AID PROGRAMME IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES.

I AM INFORMING THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE  
STEPS OUTLINED ABOVE.

WITH REGARD TO THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATION  
OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, CABINET HAS DIRECTED THAT  
OFFICIALS ENTER INTO IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH A NUMBER  
OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN  
INVOLVED IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, SIGNATORIES  
TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. END QUOTE.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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